

Q. #1052

DOCUMENT NO. 220C (12)

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TELEGRAM

THE AMBASSADOR IN JAPAN (GREW) TO THE SECRETARY
OF STATE

TOKYO, February 27, 1941--2 a.m.
(Received 4:55 p.m.)

Excerpt.

317. In the course of my conversation today with the Foreign Minister he went out of his way to accuse the British Government of taking measures in the Far East which were a direct incitement to Japan and which rendered very difficult an improvement in the situation. He referred in this connection to the reported mining of Singapore and the sending of Australian troops to the Malaya-Thailand border.

I said that it seemed to me extraordinary that the Japanese should interpret and characterize obviously defensive measures as measures of offense. As I had said to the Minister at the American-Japan Society luncheon, we must inevitably be guided by "facts and actions" and that certainly the facts and actions relating to Japan's southward advance were concrete causes for serious anxiety not only on the part of Great Britain but of ourselves. Having occupied in succession Waichow, Hainan, the Spratly Islands, and other areas, the Japanese military were now pouring troops into Indo-China and, according to our informer, had occupied the airport in Saigon, quite apart from naval activities in those regions, and that these steps, taken in conjunction with the public utterances of many Japanese statesmen, generals and admirals concerning Japanese intentions to the southward, had created a situation which could hardly be regarded with equanimity either by the United States or Great Britain since they threatened not only our interests but our possessions.

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Foreign Relations II, pp. 308-309

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電報

駐日米國大使「クルー」ヨリ國務長官宛

東京 一九四一年／昭和十六年／二月二十七日

午前二時

(午後四時五十五分 受信)

抜萃

三百十七、今日、外務大臣ト、會談、途中、大臣、英王政府ガ日本ニ対シテ直接刺戟ナルソシテ形勢ヲ改ムル事ヲ困難ナラシメル手段ヲ東洋ニ於テトツテナルト之ヲ非難スル、舉ニ出タ。コレ閣聯ニテ彼、噂ニ出テナル新嘉坡、檳榔嶼、設及ビ濠洲軍、馬來泰、境況激甚ニ言及シタ。私、日本人ガ明カニ守備方策ヲアルモノヲ改敵方策ト解シ其、性質ヲ論ズルハ、法外ニ思ヘルト述ベタ。私ガ日米協會午餐會、同大臣ニ云ツタ如ク、我々ハ是非共、事實ト行動ニヨツテ帰向ヲ定メサケルナラヌモノデアリ、然モ日本ノ南方進出ニ関スル事實ト行動ハ明カニ英王側ノミナラズ我ガ方ニ対シテモ重大ト懸念ノ具體的原因デアル。惠州、海南、新南群島及ビ他、地ニ引続キ占領シ、日本軍ハ今ヤ軍隊ヲ印度支那ヘ殺倒セシメ尙我方通報者、報告ニヨリ、此、地ニ海軍、行動ト、全ク別個ニ西貢、飛行場ヲ占領シ且、多ク、日本、政治家、陸軍大將、^{海軍將領}此、日本、南方ニ対スル意圖ニ関スル公言ニ閣聯ニテ取ラレタ之等、措置ハ我々、利益ノミナラズ領エラモ脅カスモ、故米國モ英國モ平氣ヲ考ヘテサラシイ情報ヲ想起シタヘアル

* 外交關係 第三卷 第三〇八頁及第三〇九頁 *